

RUTH

THE REDEMPTION STORY

THE NAME: "RUTH"

- * The book is named after one of its main characters, a young woman of Moab, named RUTH
- * Ruth means "friend"
- * She became the great-grandmother of David and an ancestress of Jesus (4:21-22; Mt 1:1,5).
- * The only other Biblical book bearing the name of a woman is Esther.

AUTHORSHIP & FACTS

- * The author is unknown.
- * Jewish tradition points to Samuel
- * It is unlikely that he is the author because the mention of David (4:17,22) implies a later date.
- * Further, the literary style of Hebrew used in Ruth suggests that it was written during the period of the monarchy.

Date of Writing: The Book of Ruth was likely written between 1000 and 950 B.C.

CHAPTERS: 4

VERSES: 85

ITS PLACE IN HISTORY

- * The story is set in the time of the judges, a time characterized in the book of Judges as a period of religious and moral degeneracy, national disunity and frequent foreign oppression.
- * This beautiful book is like a calmness in the middle of a turbulent storm, when reminiscing on all the violence and enemy invasions recorded in the books of Joshua and Judges.
- * The book of Ruth reflects a time of peace between Israel and Moab (contrast **Jdg 3:12-30**).
- * Like **1Sa 1-2**, it gives a series of intimate glimpses into the private lives of the members of an Israelite family.
- * It also presents a delightful account of the remnant of true faith and piety in the period of the judges, relieving an otherwise wholly dark picture of that era.

THE STORY OF RUTH

- * 1) Due to a severe famine in the land of Judah, Elimelech, a native of Bethlehem, emigrated to Moab with his wife and two sons, who married two Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah.
- * 2) At the end of ten years, all three of the women were left widows and Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem. Despite Naomi's protests, Ruth determined to return to Bethlehem with her. Ruth's dedication to Naomi and to the religion of the God of Israel is stated in Ruth 1:16-17: "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."
- * 3) They arrived in Bethlehem at the time of the barley harvest. Ruth went out to glean in the fields of Boaz, a wealthy man whose relationship with his servants eloquently attests to his character (Ruth 2:4). According to Hebrew law, Ruth had a right to demand that a near kinsman of her late husband take her for his wife. Boaz had been related to Ruth's husband and was willing to marry her, but since there was another man of closer kinship, it was necessary to go through certain customary and legal measures before he could rightfully claim her.
- * 4) This being done, the two were married with the blessings of their neighbors and eventually became the parents of Obed, the grandfather of David.

JOURNEY OF NAOMI & RUTH



GOD REDEEMS

THE STATEMENT OF RUTH:

- * **Ruth 1:16-17:** *"¹⁶But Ruth said: "Entreat^[e] me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."*
- * The words of Ruth are filled with love and devotion for God and fellow men.
- * God honored her devotion by sending a Redeemer Kinsman Boaz her way.

THE TESTIMONY OF BOAZ:

- * **Ruth 2:12** - *The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.*
- * The book of Ruth traces the messianic line of King David back to Ruth, who was a Moabitess
- * The book gives us a beautiful understanding of how God rewards faithfulness and devotion.

OUTLINE OF “RUTH”

- Introduction: Naomi Emptied (1:1–5)
- Naomi Returns from Moab (1:6–22)
 - Ruth Clings to Naomi (1:6–18)
 - Ruth and Naomi Return to Bethlehem (1:19–22)
- Ruth and Boaz Meet in the Harvest Fields (ch. 2)
 - Ruth Begins Work (2:1–7)
 - Boaz Shows Kindness to Ruth (2:8–16)
 - Ruth Returns to Naomi (2:17–23)
- Naomi Sends Ruth to Boaz’s Threshing Floor (ch. 3)

- Naomi Instructs Ruth (3:1–5)
- Boaz Pledges to Secure Redemption (3:6–15)
- Ruth Returns to Naomi (3:16–18)
- Boaz Arranges to Fulfill His Pledge (4:1–12)
 - Boaz Confronts the Unnamed Kinsman (4:1–8)
 - Boaz Buys Naomi’s Property and Announces His Marriage to Ruth (4:9–12)
- Conclusion: Naomi Filled (4:13–17)
- Epilogue: Genealogy of David (4:18–22)